

PARENTS AS TEACHERS:  
CARING FOR THE  
FUTURE ONE CHILD AT A  
TIME



BY  
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GREAT FALLS, MONTANA

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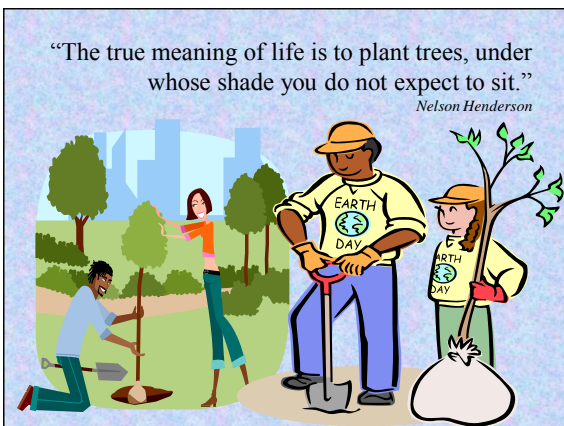
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"The true meaning of life is to plant trees, under  
whose shade you do not expect to sit."

*Nelson Henderson*



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## PARENTS as TEACHERS

“What children become,  
the community will  
become.”

*Susan LaFollette,  
US writer, editor*

“Investments in children are  
always investments in  
tomorrow.”

*parentsasteachers.org*



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## City-County Health Department



*115 4th Street South, Great Falls, Montana*

The Cascade City-County Health Department plays an important  
role in helping county residents achieve and maintain health,  
safety, and self-sufficiency.

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## PARENTS as TEACHERS

- ❖ We, at CCHD/ MCH caught the vision of caring for the future, improving the quality of MCH services by integrating PAT in our PHHV program.
- ❖ Personal visits support parents in their parenting role in order to promote optimal child development and positive parent-child interaction.
- ❖ Cascade City County HD became a PAT certified site in 2007.
- ❖ MCH has 4 RNs who are PAT Certified Parent Educators and Certified Lactation Counselors.

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## PARENTS as TEACHERS

Parents as Teachers is an international early childhood parent education and family support program serving families throughout pregnancy until their child enters kindergarten, usually age 5.

<http://www.parentsteachers.org>



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## PARENTS as TEACHERS

(CONTINUED)

- **Parents as Teachers** (PAT) is the overarching program philosophy of providing parents with child development knowledge and parenting support.
- The organizational vehicle for delivering that knowledge and support is Parents as Teachers National Center (PATNC).
- PATNC is a nonprofit organization based in St. Louis, MO and oversees more than 3,000 PAT programs nationwide as well as in Australia, Belize, Canada, China, Germany, Mexico, New Zealand, and the United Kingdom.
- The National Center drives its philosophy, or mission, through four program areas: **Born to Learn**, Professional Development, Meld, and Advocacy. All of these program areas work through a strong network of state leaders and partners.

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## PARENTS as TEACHERS

Historical Perspective

- ❖ Parents as Teachers began in 1981 in Missouri as a pilot project for first-time parents of newborns.
- ❖ State funding was provided in 1985 to implement the PAT program in all Missouri school districts. Since 1985, Parents as Teachers has expanded to all 50 states and to other countries.
- ❖ Born to Learn (BTL) is a four-part intervention model: (1) personal visits; (2) group visits; (3) screening; (4) resource network, and delivers its mission-based program through intermediaries (parent educators) to the ultimate recipients (parents).
- ❖ BTL has been the official PAT curriculum of parent education, prenatal to five, since 1999, 1<sup>st</sup> edition; (2005, 2<sup>nd</sup> edition).

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NACCHO\*  
FACT SHEET: HOME VISITATION PROGRAM  
President's Proposal and Budget

- President's FY 2010 budget proposes \$8.5 billion over 10 years for a new home visitation (HV) program that provides funds for evidence-based home visitation programs for low-income families.
- Primary support will be provided for evidence-based HV models that have been rigorously evaluated and shown to have positive effects on critical outcomes for children and families.

<http://www.whitehouse.gov/omb/fy2010> )

\*National Association of County and City Health Officials  
<https://cc.readytalk.com/cc/schedule/display.do?udc=vyccg71uy6gi>

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FACT SHEET: HOME VISITATION PROGRAM  
(continued)

In light of the Obama Administration's recent support of home visitation programs, the Emerging Issues in Maternal and Child Health\* featured, in the 2009-2010 webcasts series, Parents as Teachers Program to local Health Departments for improving health outcomes for children and families

\*Details about the proposed legislation supporting HV programs may be found at  
<http://www.govtrack.us/congress/bill.xpd?>

\*The link to the archived information (including power point of the presentation and additional resource list) is  
<https://cc.readytalk.com/cc/schedule/display.do?udc=vyccg71uy6gi>

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HEALTH CARE REFORM BILL  
(Impact on Home Visiting Programs)

Provisions to establish dedicated federal funding for quality home visiting programs are included in both versions of the health care reform bill recently passed by the House and Senate.

The Senate version, passed on December 24, includes \$1.5 billion over five years to be administered through the Office of Maternal and Child Health.

The House version, passed in early November, would be administered through the Administration for Families and Children and includes \$750 million over five years.

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## PARENTS as TEACHERS:

**VISION:** All children will learn, grow, and develop to realize their full potential.

**MISSION:** To provide the information, support and encouragement parents need to help their children develop optimally during the crucial early years of life.

**APPROACH:** Focuses on families with children, prenatal to kindergarten entry, and presently includes these four components:



- (1) Personal/home visits
- (2) Parent group meetings
- (3) Developmental and health screening for young children
- (4) Linkages and referrals to community networks and resources

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## PARENTS as TEACHERS

("It Takes a Village . . .")

Parents as Teachers is a strong, effective approach to early learning – a fundamental part of the strategy for successful families and communities ([parentsasteachers.org](http://parentsasteachers.org)).

*A culture can be judged by how it treats its children. When children are the recipients of consistent love and respect they gradually appreciate how to nurture others.*

*Compassion and understanding are more important than power and control; tender words teach more effectively than shouts and lectures* (Victor La Cerva, MD, 1999, World words: Global reflections to awaken the spirit)

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## PARENTS as TEACHERS: Core Values

- ✓ Parents are their children's first and most influential teachers
- ✓ The early years of a child's life are critical for optimal development and provide the foundation for success in school and life.
- ✓ Established and emerging research should be the foundation of parent education and family support, curricula, training materials, and services.
- ✓ All young children and their families deserve the same opportunities to succeed, regardless of any demographic, geographic, or economic considerations.
- ✓ An understanding and appreciation of the history and traditions of diverse cultures is essential in serving families.

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## THE PARENTS as TEACHERS STANDARDS

### Service Delivery Components

- ❖ Personal visits
- ❖ Group visits
- ❖ Screening
- ❖ Resource networking



### Program Implementation Areas

- ✓ Recruitment and retention (of families)
- ✓ Program management
- ✓ Professional development
- ✓ Evaluation

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## Personal Visits & Group Meetings




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## MCH/ PHHV GOALS

- Improve Birth Outcomes
- Enhance Family Functioning
- Prevent Child Abuse and Neglect
- Support Child Health, Safety and Development




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## PARENTS as TEACHERS

### GOALS

1. Increase parent knowledge of early childhood development and improve parenting practices.



### OUTCOMES

Parents as Teachers parents:

- 1a. are more knowledgeable about child development and child-rearing practice.
- 1b. engage in more language – and literacy-promoting behaviors with their children
- 1c. are more involved in their children's schooling

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## PARENTS as TEACHERS

(continued)

### GOALS

2. Provide early detection of developmental delays and health issues
3. Prevent child abuse and neglect



### OUTCOMES

Children who participate in Parents as Teachers,

- 2a. receive screenings and have delays identified early.
- 2b. are healthier
- 3a. Parents are more knowledgeable about discipline, show more involvement with children, and organize their home environment more appropriately.
- 3b. Families have fewer documented cases of child abuse and neglect.

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## PARENTS as TEACHERS

(continued)

### GOALS

4. Increase children's school readiness and school success



### OUTCOMES

Parents as Teachers children:

- 4a. Are more advanced than comparison children in language, problem solving and other cognitive abilities, and social development.
- 4b. Score higher on kindergarten readiness tests and on standardized measures of reading, math, and language in the elementary grades.

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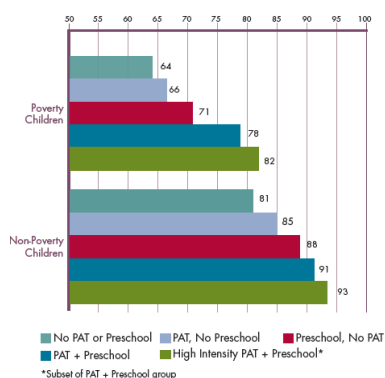
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Figure 1. Percentage of Children Entering Kindergarten "Ready" by Poverty Status and Pre-K Experiences



The figures show the impact of PAT and preschool participation on children's school readiness and later success. For this study, children assessed as "not ready" for kindergarten scored one standard deviation below the average entering kindergartner. Children scoring at the lowest level on the third grade MAP Communication Arts test scored one standard deviation below the average third grader.

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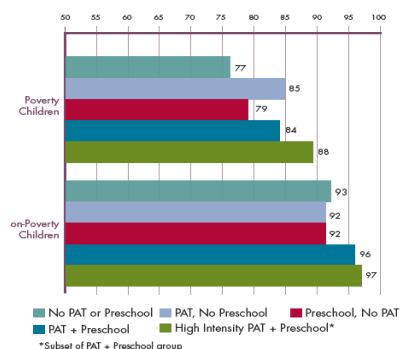
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Figure 2. Percentage of Children Scoring Above the Lowest Levels of the Third Grade MAP Communication Arts Test by Poverty Status and Pre-K Experiences



The concept for Parents as Teachers was developed in the 1970s when Missouri educators noted that children were beginning kindergarten with varying levels of learning readiness. With funding from the Missouri Department of Elementary and Secondary Education and the Danforth Foundation, Parents as Teachers began in 1981 in Missouri as a pilot project for first-time parents of newborns. Convinced of the program's benefits and cost effectiveness, the state has offered Parents as Teachers services to all residents through every school district since 1985.

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## PARENTS as TEACHERS

### PERSONAL VISIT COMPONENTS

- ❖ Rapport-building
- ❖ Observation
- ❖ Discussion
- ❖ Parent-child activity
- ❖ Summary

### PERSONAL VISIT GOALS

- ✓ Increase parents' feelings of confidence and competence as teachers of their child
- ✓ Increase parents' observation skills
- ✓ Increase parents' knowledge of child development
- ✓ Provide opportunity for parents to apply knowledge
- ✓ Prepare parents for what's coming next

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## PARENTS as TEACHERS

### PARENT EDUCATOR ROLE

- ❖ Maintain rapport and develop a relationship with the family
- ❖ Help parents develop and hone their observation skills
- ❖ Provide age appropriate child development and neuroscience information
- ❖ Support and reinforce the importance of parents' role as teachers of their children
- ❖ Solicit and respond to parents' questions and concerns

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## PARENTS as TEACHERS



### CULTURAL COMPETENCE

#### Definition

Cultural competence means that one understands the role of cultural values, beliefs and behaviors in the development of humans, supports the preservation of cultural ways of being, and works to eliminate cultural, ethnic, or racial bias.

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## CULTURAL COMPETENCE

(Continued)

- It is the policy of Parents as Teachers National Center (PATNC) to work and provide services in a culturally competent manner.
- All cultures are openly welcomed and honored, and multiculturalism is appreciated and practiced.
- Mission: To enhance the value of our work through respectful curiosity of one another's culture and to develop a reciprocal relationship of mutual and caring learning.

ParentsasTeachers.org

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## FOCUS on FATHERS



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## PARENTS AS TEACHERS:

Consider Two Realities of Life:

- Children learn more from the time they are born until age 5 than they will at any other time in their lives.
- Most people have no formal training to be parents, but it's the most important job they will ever have.

There are 39 personal visit quality indicators that cover:

- ✓ Personal visits procedures
- ✓ Rapport and engagement strategies
- ✓ Personal visits techniques
- ✓ Personal visits content
- ✓ Record keeping and continuous quality improvement

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## Key Outcomes



Children are more ready for school



Children are healthier and safer.

Parents are more involved in their children's education

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## TEAM WORK



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## PARENTS AS TEACHERS



Parents are the first and most influential teachers in their children's lives

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### SAFETY ON THE TOP OF THE LIST



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### CULTURALLY SENSITIVE CARE



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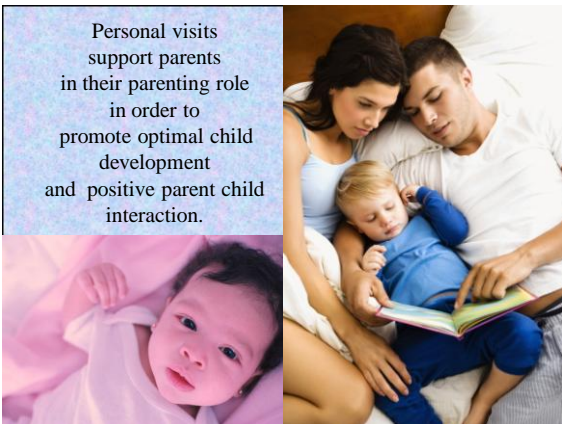
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Personal visits support parents in their parenting role in order to promote optimal child development and positive parent child interaction.



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## PARENTS AS TEACHERS

### Empowering Families

(Program Sites in Montana)

#### BILLINGS:

- \* Head Start, Inc., Parents as Teachers (ZIP CODE: 59101).
- \* Early Childhood Intervention - Billings Public Schools (59102).

#### BOZEMAN:

- Parent Services - Parents as Teachers (59772).

#### GREAT FALLS:

- Parents as Teachers (59403)
- Cascade City County Health Department (59401).
- Great Falls Title I - Literacy Department (59405).
- Opportunities Inc. Head Start (59405)

#### LIVINGSTONE

- ❖ Livingstone Even Start - Parents as Teachers

#### MILES CITY

- ✓ DEAP - Parents as Teachers

#### MISSOULA

- Family BASICS/WORD (59802).

#### PULSON

- \*\* Coalition for Kids (59860)

## PARENTS as TEACHERS

#### FEDERAL FUNDING

- **Education** (*Title I, Head Start*)
- **Social Service** (*TANF, CAPTA*)
- **Health** (*Medicaid, Title V, SAMHSA*)
- **Contracts** (*Bureau Indian Education, Dept. of Defense*)

#### STATE/LOCAL FUNDING

- Departments of Health, Education, Social Service
- United Way
- Private (*hospitals, child care, foundations*)

## ENDNOTES

CCHD in GF : [www.cchdmt.org](http://www.cchdmt.org)  
[parentsasteachers.org](http://parentsasteachers.org)

(<http://www.whithouse.gov/omb/fy2010>)

<https://cc.readytalk.com/cc/schedule/display.do?udc=vyccg71uy6gi>

<http://www.govtrack.us/congress/bill.xpd?>

Victor La Cerva, MD, (1999), World words: Global reflections to awaken the spirit.  
 HEAL Foundation Press, Cordova, TN

Nelson Henderson, Author (1921-2010):  
[www.famousquotesandauthors.com/.../nelson\\_henderson\\_quotes.html](http://www.famousquotesandauthors.com/.../nelson_henderson_quotes.html)

THANK YOU FOR YOUR ATTENDANCE



ANY  
QUESTIONS?

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